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The big blue marble

This view of the Earth was seen by the Apollo 17 crew as they traveled toward the Moon on their NASA lunar landing mission. This outstanding translunar coast photograph extends from the Mediterranean Sea area to the Antarctica south polar ice cap. This is the first time the Apollo trajectory made it possible to photograph the south polar ice cap. Note the heavy cloud cover in the Southern Hemisphere. Almost the entire coastline of Africa is clearly visible.

To learn more about ISS Earth observation photography, see pages 4 and 5.